

*United States Attorney's Office
Northern District of Iowa*



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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHEROKEE MAN CHARGED WITH TRANSPORTING, RECEIVING,
AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Lucian Siepka, age 56, from Cherokee, Iowa, has been charged with one count of transportation of child pornography, two counts of receipt of child pornography, and three counts of possession of child pornography. The charges are contained in an Indictment unsealed on December 23 in United States District Court in Sioux City.

The Indictment alleges that, between March 2008 and September 2009, Siepka knowingly transported, received, and possessed depictions of child pornography.

If convicted on all charges, Siepka faces a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years' imprisonment and a possible maximum sentence of 90 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine on each count, \$600 in special assessments, and up to life on supervised release following any imprisonment.

Siepka appeared on December 23 in federal court in Sioux City and was released on bond. Siepka's next appearance for trial is set for March 1, 2010.

As with any criminal case, a charge is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Mark Tremmel and was investigated by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state, and local resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov.

Court file information is available at <https://ecf.iand.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/login.pl>. The case file number is 09-4066.